

White House Initiative on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders

Houston Leaders' Roundtable

July 10, 2000

Kim Son Restaurant

12:00 - 1:30pm

AGENDA:

Welcome & Introductions	Council Member Gordon Quan
Overview of EO 13125	Shamina Singh, Exec. Director - WHIAAPI
EPA Support of WH Initiative on AAPIs	Romy Diaz, Assistant Administrator, OARM
Summary of EPA's Regional Activities	Jerry Clifford, R6 Deputy Regional Administrator
Q&A Session	
Closing Remarks	Council Member Gordon Quan

MINUTES FROM Q&A SESSION

- How are translations accomplished?
 - < Romy: We want to get a sense of what critical pieces of information need to be translated. We need to ensure that translations are culturally sensitive. EPA plans to develop a Translations Protocol.
- What is the status of the study on Clean Air (i.e, AAPI susceptibility)?
 - < Jerry: This was a study on the environmental risk and public health impacts in low-income and minority communities. Asthma is the leading cause of kids absences from school. The State of Texas developed a plan for addressing the air quality problem. It will go out for comment around August 8. Also, part of the AAPI initiative is to collect data. EPA funds the American Lung Association - perhaps there is a way to fund a study on the AAPI community.
- Has EPA identified challenges and opportunities within the community?
 - < Romy: Dialogues like this roundtable are an opportunity - it provides a forum, an information exchange. We are also developing a draft AAPI Outreach Strategy and would like to get your feedback. We have collected your names and contact information to continue a long-term dialogue.

- Two questions: Are there any funds to do translations (i.e., community partnership)? Is there any concern about herbal preparations/remedies?
 - < Romy: EPA has funded some efforts to translate. Now we need to develop a more concentrated effort. We also want to empower CBOs by partnering with you to serve your community through translation services.
 - < Jerry: We would also like to use all 10 Regions to help translate EPA guidance documents (to help leverage the cost).
 - < Romy: About the herbal preparations, that's an FDA issue. I will share this information with our Interagency Working Group members.
- EPA can form some advisory boards on issues in AAPI communities. EPA can also educate and broaden awareness (outreach) to help AAPIs understand environmental issues.
 - < Romy: Yes, communities should participate and provide feedback. Face to face is better than just translating documents. We also can explore other media - radio, TV, print media specific to ethnicity.
 - < Rogene Calvert (Chief of Staff for Council Member Quan): We can share our Resource Guide for Asian Media.
 - < Jerry: Also, the Houston Health Department provides real-time air monitoring within city limits to gather data and notifies the city about an ozone watch or warning. They may be working on a translation in other languages.
- Who is doing the outreach and are they culturally competent? Information providers need to explain to AAPIs with sensitivity – make it relate to them.
 - < Romy: EPA can provide resources to coalitions to help get the word out.
- Council Member Quan: Thank you for all your questions and comments. We are out of time, but hope you can join us this evening for the WH Initiative reception.

[Council Member Quan presents Romy and Jerry with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the City of Houston, for EPA's support of the White House Initiative on AAPIs.]

